

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A simplified GSM network architecture is illustrated in Figure 1. As shown in Figure 1; the exemplary GSM network environment includes a home network, generally indicated by reference numeral **100**, and a visited network, generally indicated by the numeral **110**. As used herein, the term "home network" is used to refer to the network in which an HLR storing the mobile ~~subscriber is~~ subscriber's location and subscription information resides. The term "visited network" refers to the network in which a mobile subscriber is roaming. Home network **100** presented in Figure 1 includes a home location register (HLR) **104** and a gateway mobile switching center (GMSC) **106**. Similarly, visited network **110** includes a GMSC **112**, a first mobile switching center (MSC) **114** and associated visitor location register (VLR) **116**, and a second MSC **120** and associated VLR **122**. Also illustrated in Figure 1 are a pair of base station system (BSS) units **118** and **124**, which are associated with MSC **114** and MSC **120**, respectively.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--When a mobile subscriber roams within the coverage areas of different MSC nodes, standard GSM network location updating procedures are employed to keep the mobile subscriber's HLR informed of the current location of the mobile subscriber. For example, as mobile subscriber **126** shown in Figure 1 roams from the service area associated with MSC **114** to that of MSC **120**, a number of signaling messages are generated by and communicated between MSC **114**, VLR **116**, MSC **120**, VLR **122**, GMSC **112**, GMSC **106**, and HLR **104**. Again, the goal of such signaling activity is to provide the mobile subscriber's HLR with the information necessary to locate the roaming mobile subscriber within a home or visited network[[,]] and to provide the VLR with the information necessary to complete calls to the roaming subscriber. A detailed discussion of such location or call management signaling operations can be found in

The GSM System for Mobile Communications by Michel Mouly and Marie-Bernadette Pautet, Cell & Sys 1992.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It is another object of the present invention to provide a signal_transfer_point-like network element that includes an integrated GLR processor.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 36, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As described above, an MMR node according to embodiments of the present invention caches mobile subscriber information, performs both HLR and VLR functions, and performs SS7 routing functions. Such functions reduce the need for location update messages to be routed to the mobile subscriber's home network each time the mobile subscriber enters an area served by a new MSC within the same visited network. In addition, MMR node **300** may generate location cancellation messages to purge VLRs or HLRs of outdated location information. During mobile terminated call setup, MMR node **300** may respond on behalf of a VLR in response to ProvideRoamingNumber query messages. Thus, an MMR node according to the present invention reduces call setup time, decreases mobility management network traffic, and provides increased functionality over conventional STP and SS7/IP gateway nodes.--